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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ANTHONY J.
Applicant: ~~James W.~~ Newbill et al : Portland, Oregon
Serial No: 10/784,654 : Art Unit 3612
Filed: 02/23/2004 : Examiner
For: COMBINATION LATCH AND SUPPORT
STRUCTURE FOR A VEHICLE SPARE
WHEEL CARRIER : August 26, 2004

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT 37 CFR 1.97

Sir:

The following information is provided in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97:

U. S. Patent 5,186,371 discloses a body mounted spare wheel carrier having a frame which swings about a vertical axis and carries a mechanism for manual lifting and lowering a spare wheel. The supporting frame engages a latch receptacle 24 fixedly mounted on the vehicle tailgate.

By way of background, U. S. Patent D473,835 discloses a spare wheel carrier having a horizontal arm which carries the spare wheel for travel about a vertical axis provided by a bracket bolted in place on a frame extension of a sport utility vehicle. A distal end of the arm engages a second support associated with a second extension on a vehicle frame to provide adequate support of the spare wheel assembly carrying arm.

By way of background, U. S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0024958 discloses a spare wheel carrier intended for use on a military version of a sports utility

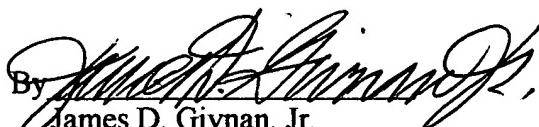
vehicle and termed a Hum Vee. A counterpart vehicle for civilian use is termed a Hummer. A horizontal arm swings about a vertical pivot and carries a winch for lifting and lowering a spare wheel assembly on a second or pivoted arm carried by the horizontal arm. A latch for the carrier includes a pin dropped through openings in an arm extension and a bumper mounted bracket.

U. S. Patent 6,659,318, issued to the present inventor, is incorporated herein by reference and discloses details of spare wheel carrier 22 as well as a modified spare wheel carrier having a manually operated arm 23 for depositing the wheel assembly on a ground surface and subsequent lifting of the spare wheel assembly for spare wheel storage.

A copy of each reference, together with a listing on PTO Form 1449, is submitted herewith. Applicant respectfully solicits the Examiner's consideration of the cited references and the entry thereof into the record of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES W. NEWBILL et al

By 
James D. Givnan, Jr.
Their Agent

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Sheet _____ of _____							
FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 7-80)				U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE			
LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY. DOCKET NO.		SERIAL NO.	
				APPLICANT		10/784.654	
				FILING DATE 02/23/04		GROUP 3612	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5 1 8 6 3 7 1	2/16/93	Jozefezak	224	42.21	5/2/91
	AB	D 4 7 3 8 3 5	4/29/03	Roehmer et al	D12	202	10/29/02
	AC	U S 2 0 0 3 1	2/6/03	Slovick			7/31/01
	AD	0 0 2 4 9 5 8	12/9/03	Newbill	224	503	9/14/01
	AE						10/10/00
	AF						
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AL						
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	AN						
	AO						
	AP						
OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
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	AT						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							